

# Senator Aaron Reardon

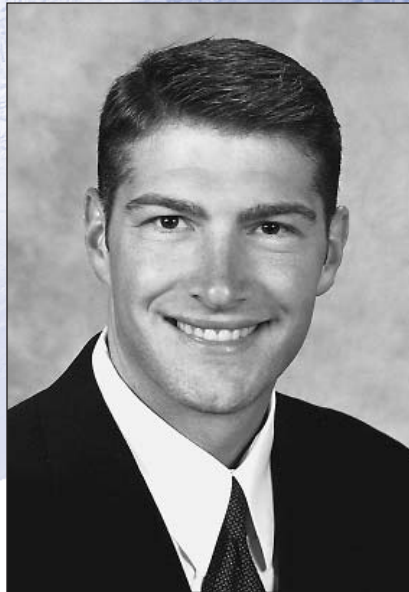
2003 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

Dear Neighbor:

This was a tough year for the Legislature. There's no other way to characterize it. Because of an extended economic downturn, writing and passing a state budget proved to be a challenge that required extra effort.

But even with challenging conditions, there were some high points. We put together what I think is an outstanding package of legislation that will help us present our best possible proposal to Boeing in Washington's bid to land the site for their 7E7 assembly. Key to this was securing funding in the capital budget to construct the Everett Barge Dock. And, we finally were able to pass a prescription drug bill that will help some seniors with the escalating cost of their medications, as well as make the state a smarter purchaser of drugs.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator. I look forward to seeing you



around the district this interim. In the mean time, don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of help.

Sincerely,

Sen. Aaron Reardon  
38th District

## Capital budget invests in Snohomish County

The capital budget was one of the bright spots in an otherwise fiscally challenging session. Tough economic times made writing the operating budget particularly difficult.

But because the "bricks and mortar" investments of the capital budget are financed largely through the sale of bonds, we were able to take advantage of low interest rates and provide a lot of support for local education, the arts and community resources.

We will benefit from funding for the following projects:

- \$15.5 million for the construction of the **Everett Barge Dock** in support of Boeing's 7E7 assembly.
- **Edmonds Community College** – \$8.8 million for the renovation of Mount Lake Terrace Hall and \$2.9 million for an instructional lab building.

*(Continued)*

**Our district office is  
open once again to  
serve you!**

Sen. Aaron Reardon  
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 101  
Everett, WA 98201

Phone (425) 257-2141  
Fax (425) 257-2142  
E-mail: reardon\_aa@leg.wa.gov

*(Capital budget invests in Snohomish County – Continued)*

- **Everett Community College** – \$7.3 million for the renovation of Monte Cristo Hall and \$1.3 million to replace Pilchuck and Glacier halls to consolidate art programs.
- **Assistance League of Everett** – \$400,000 for the development of a 24,000- square-foot facility to house the league's service programs.
- **YMCA of Snohomish County** – \$275,000 to develop a new facility that will become part of the Teen, Family & Child Development Center.
- **Children's Museum of Snohomish County** – \$200,000 to renovate a building for the permanent home of the museum, which provides interactive exhibits for children from the age of 18 months to 11 years.

During my five years in the Legislature I've worked hard to secure funding in the capital budget for local projects and institutions, such as our area community colleges, the Historic Everett Theater, Edmonds Waterfront Park, Alderwood Manor Heritage Association and Compass Health. These are the things that make Snohomish County such an extraordinary place to work and raise a family.

## **Tough budget year, tough choices**

When the Legislature convened in January, we faced a revenue shortfall of more than \$2 billion. By the time we reached the scheduled end to the session in April,

that chasm between available revenue and the cost of providing the programs and services people have come to expect had grown to \$2.6 billion.

There were two difficult choices we could make: Either increase taxes or drastically cut services to fill the hole.

It took an extra 30 days, but the Legislature ultimately did pass a \$23 billion operating budget. Unfortunately, in the end, it was one I could not support.

My goal was that during the first special session budget negotiators would have been able to produce a budget that would address the current revenue shortfall while also investing in our future, keeping in mind our commitment to public education, public safety and services for seniors and the other vulnerable populations the state serves.

Throughout this entire process, I have remained committed to developing a long-term approach to funding vital services that reflects the values we all share. Clearly this did not happen. Critical investments to expand our economy simply were not made.

For this and other reasons, I could not support the final budget. I voted against it because I felt that it did not represent my values or the values of our community. Moreover, it fails to meet many of our state's top priorities and it does not make the necessary investments for our future. This only further exacerbates the problem and prolongs the fiscal and economic challenges we face.